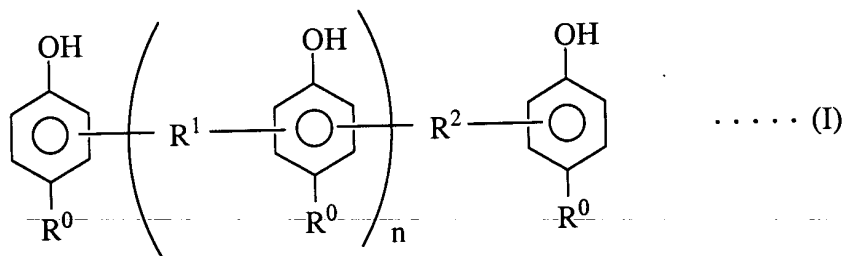


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A rubber composition characterized by compounding a rubber component comprised of at least one of natural rubber and synthetic diene rubbers with a phenolic resin represented by the following formula (I):



(wherein R⁰ is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a phenyl group or a methylol group, and each of R¹ and R² is an arylene group, an alkylene group having a carbon number of 2-10, an aralkylene group, a cycloalkenylene group or a cycloalkadienylene group, and n is 0-10).

2. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein each of R¹ and R² in the formula (I) is a xylylene group.

3. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein each of R¹ and R² in the formula (I) is [1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dimethylene group.

4. (currently amended): A rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein R⁰ in the formula (I) is a hydrogen atom.

5. (currently amended): A rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

6. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 5, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-10 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

7. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein a hardening agent as a methylene donor is contained in the rubber composition at an amount corresponding to 1-30% by mass of the phenolic resin of the formula (I).

8. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 7, wherein the hardening agent is hexamethylene tetramine.

9. (new): A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein R^0 in the formula (I) is a hydrogen atom.

10. (new): A rubber composition according to claim 3, wherein R^0 in the formula (I) is a hydrogen atom.

11. (new): A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

12. (new): A rubber composition according to claim 3, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

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Preliminary Amendment

13. (new): A rubber composition according to claim 4, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

14. (new): A rubber composition according to claim 9, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

15. (new): A rubber composition according to claim 10, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.
